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GOP Asked To Cast Off Extremism

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Gov. Robert E. Smylie of Idaho will ask the Republican Coordinating Committee at its meeting in Washington next Monday to approve a resolution disassociating the Party from the John Birch Society and other extremist groups.

Smylie, who is chairman of the Republican Governors Association, informed Republican National Chairman Ray C. Bliss of his intentions in a letter received by Bliss yesterday. Bliss is also chairman of the Coordinating Committee.

In a letter replying to Smylie, Bliss told him that he would present the Governor's request to the Coordinating Committee at the opening of its Monday session.

May Lead to Fight

Smylie's request may lead to a fight between moderate members of the Coordinating Committee and former Sen. Barry M. Goldwater, the 1964 Republican nominee who defended extremism in his acceptance speech at the San Francisco convention.

In his letter to Bliss, Smylie said he felt that the Coordinating Committee "should discuss the need for a formal resolution disassociating the Republican Party's interests and activities from those of the John Birch Society and similar extremist groups."

Smylie pointed out that several Republican leaders "have taken a public stand in rejecting any association with these groups" and said that he thought "there would be little difficulty in getting Committee approval of such a resolution."

The Governor also said he believed "the failure of the Committee to pass such a resolution would be interpreted by the press and the public as an act of equivocation at the leadership level of our Party."

Morton Views Given

Sen. Thruston B. Morton (R-Ky.), a member of the Coordinating Committee, suggested last September that the Republican Party disassociate itself from the Birch Society and other extremist groups.

After Morton spoke out on the subject, Sen. Everett M. Dirksen (Ill.), the Senate Republican Leader; Rep. Gerald R. Ford (Mich.), the House Republican Leader; former Vice President Richard M. Nixon and other Republican leaders also said that the Party should condemn extremist organizations.

But in commenting on the response to his original suggestion, Morton has said that with so many Republican leaders already on record against extremist groups he did not see any need for the Coordinating Committee to pass a resolution condemning them.

Last October, Goldwater said that Birch Society members should resign from the Society if they wanted to work for the Republican Party.